

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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PRAGUE FOR SENATOR BIDEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEWT OREP (BIDEN, JOSEPH) HU US
SUBJECT: CODEL BIDEN VISIT (AUG 8-13)

1. SUMMARY. CODEL BIDEN WAS GIVEN WARM AND ATTENTIVE RECEPTION BY G
OH.

HIGHLIGHT OF HIS TALKS WITH GOH OFFICIALS WAS ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR
MEETING WITH DEPTY PRIME MINISTER ISTVAN HUSZAR. SENATOR WAS EXPOSED
TO HUNGARIAN WORRIES RE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES AND COURSE OF
DETENTE
BUT FOCUS OF OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS WAS ON DEVELOPING UMS.-HUNGARIAN
ECONOMIC RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING FIVE-DAY STAY IN BUDAPEST, SENATOR BIDEN, ACCOMPANIED BY
SENATE STAFFER JOHN RITCH, AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER,
HAD LONG, GENERALLY CORDIAL SESSIONS WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
JANOS
NAGY, DEPTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ISTVAN TOROK, CHAIRMAN OF THE
INSTITUTE
OF CULTURAL RELATIONS RUDOLPH RONAI, EDITOR OF THE NEW HUNGARIAN
QUARTERLY IVAN BOLDISZAR, AS WELL AS WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
HUSZAN
LUNCHEON FOR SENATOR WAS HOSTED BY MAGYAR HIRLAP EDITOR ISTVAN DARVASI
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WHO, IN HIS CAPACITY AS MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE, ALSO RECIEVED THE SENATOR IN THE PARLIAMENT. THE
AMBASSADOR HOSTED A DINNER WHICH MFA OFFICIALS AND CULTURAL
FIGURES ATTENDED. GOH TOOK THE SENATOR ON A TOUR OF ESZTERGOM
AND THE SENATOR MADE A RELAXED OVERNIGHT VISIT TO THE BALATON.

2. NAGY RAISED THE QUESTION OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WITH SENATOR AND ITS POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECT ON DETENTE. SENATOR DEFENDED PRESIDENT. WHILE CONCEDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN PERHAPS SOME UNEVENNESS IN EARLY APPLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WHICH MAY HAVE MADE IT APPEAR TO BE DIRECTED AT COMMUNIST STATES, SENATOR ASSURED NAGY THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. HE CITED APPLICATION OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN LATIN AMERICAN WHERE U.S. HAD SPOKEN OUT DESPITE POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO ITS SHORT-TERM INTERESTS. SENATOR SAID CONGRESS BACKED U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY BEING ENUNCIATED BY PRESIDENT.

3. MFN WAS DISCUSSED IN MEETINGS WITH NAGY, TOROK, AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HUSZAR. THESE OFFICIALS ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO GAINING BETTER ACCESS TO U.S. MARKET. TOROK ESTIMATED WITH MFN U.S.-HUNGARIAN TRADE COULD BE QUADRUPLED. TOROK AND HUSZAR BOTH MADE POINT MFN SHOULD BE GRANTED IN WAY CONSISTENT WITH GATT RULES. HUSZAR CATALOGUED ADVANCES IN U.S.-HUNGARIAN POLITICAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS HAD NOT KEPT PACE WITH IMPROVEMENT IN POLITICAL RELATIONS. THIS, HE SAID, IS REFLECTED IN RECENT STAGNATION IN U.S.-HUNGARIAN TRADE. HUNGARIANS AT VARIOUS POINTS EXPRESSED WORRIES ABOUT EEC DISCRIMINATION. THEY SAID THEY HOPED TO EXPAND TRADE WITH U.S., CANADA AND JAPAN AMONG OTHERS IN PART TO DIVERSIFY AWAY FROM EEC AND ESPECIALLY FRG. SENATOR MADE CLEAR TO NAGY THAT, IN HIS OPINION, THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE CONGRESS WOULD REPEAL OR MODIFY JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SENATOR BIDEN, HOWEVER, ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT HE FAVORS EXECUTIVE BRANCH NEGOTIATING OF ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOH WHICH WOULD GRANT IT MFN WITHIN TERMS OF JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT. SENATOR TOLD GOH OFFICIALS HE WAS MORE OPTIMISTIC ON SOLUTION OF CROWN PROBLEM, WHICH SEVERAL OF THEM RAISED WITH HIM AT EITHER OFFICIAL OR SOCIAL MEETINGS.

4. DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER TOROK ALSO STRESSED HUNGARIAN INTEREST IN JOINT ECONOMIC VENTURES AND COOPERATION AGREEMENTS.

5. SENATOR RAISED WITH HUSZAR QUESTION OF HUNGARY'S FUTURE OIL SUPPLIES AND EFFECT RISING OIL PRICES MIGHT HAVE ON HUNGARY'S CAPACITY TO IMPORT WESTERN TECHNOLOGY. HUSZAR SAID UNTIL 1980 HUNGARY WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPORT SAME PROPORTION OF SIVET OIL AS IT DOES TODAY. BEYOND THAT DATE, SUPPLIES WOULD COME INCREASINGLY FROM MIDDLE EAST. HE SAID INCREASING OIL PRICES WERE ONLY PART OF LARGER PROBLEM OF DETERIORATION IN HUNGARY'S TERMS OF TRADE. HUSZAR SAID HUNGARY WOULD TRY TO MEET PROBLEMS BY SWITCHING TO USE OF COAL AND NUCLEAR ENERGY, BY MODERNIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL PLANT AND BY INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY, IN PART BY RESTRUCTURING ECONOMY TO EMPHASIZE AREAS OF PRODUCTION IN WHICH GOH AND COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE: ELECTRONICS, HEAVY VEHICLES, PESTICIDES, PHARMA-

CEUTICALS, OTHER CHEMICAL INDUSTRY PRODUCTS WITH LOW ENERGY
INPUT, AND ALUMINUM.

6. INTALKS AT INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL RELATIONS, RONAI ARGUED
THAT AS RESULT OF HELSINKI AGREEMENT AND ACCORDING
TERMS OF U.S.-HUNGARIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT, U.S. HAD ASSUMED
OBLIGATION TO ENCOURAGE DISSEMINATION OF PRODUCTS OF HUNGARIAN
CULTURE IN U.S. SENATOR WAS SYMPATHETIC TO GOAL BUT THOUGHT
U.S. COULD NOT UNDERTAKE MASS DISSEMINATION OF HUNGARIAN CULTURAL
MATERIALS IN U.S. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, RONAI INDICATED HE
THOUGHT ONLY POSSIBLE WAS TO ACHIEVE HELSINKI GOALS WAS FOR U.S.
TO SUBSIDIZE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, FOR EXAMPLE
THROUGH ADVERTISING OR SETTING UP FACILITATIVE INSTITUTIONS.
WHICH WOULD PUBLICIZE AND HELP TO ARRANGE FOR DISSEMINATION
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HUNGARIAN PLAYS, LITERATURE, ART, ETC., IN U.S.

7. BUDAPEST 2756 REPORTED SESSION SENATOR BIDEN HAD WITH PRESS
ON AUG 12. MAIN TOPICS IN OFF-THE-RECORD MEETING WERE HUMAN
RIGHTS AND DETENTE. AFTER SENATOR'S DEPARTURE ALL MEDIA CARRIED
BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT AND LIST OF MEETINGS SENATOR BIDEN
HELD WITH GOH OFFICIALS.
KAISER

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